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Second Committee

Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 17 September 2010, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Ochir ..... (Mongolia)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Election of the Bureau

1. **The Chairperson** recalled that at its meeting held on 11 June 2010, the Committee had elected Mr. Lundberg (Finland) and Ms. Würtz (Hungary) as Vice-Chairpersons of the Committee for the sixty-fifth session. In accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure, the Committee needed to elect a third Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Pierre (Haiti) had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States to serve in that capacity.

2. *Mr. Pierre (Haiti) was elected Vice-Chairperson by acclamation.*

3. **The Chairperson** said that informal consultations were still being conducted among the members of the Group of African States for the post of Rapporteur. The election of the Rapporteur would therefore be postponed until a subsequent meeting of the Committee.

Statement by the Chairperson

4. **The Chairperson** said that the Committee's meetings would begin punctually at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. If there were few or no speakers inscribed for a particular meeting, the time and the conference services should be utilized either for negotiations or for meetings of interest groups. In view of the limited time available and the new working methods in place, it was important for the Committee to function more efficiently and to maximize the use of its time.

5. The list of speakers for both the Committee's general debate and the agenda items allocated to it was now open. Delegations were requested to inscribe as soon as possible to enable the Committee to plan its work more efficiently. If a speaker was absent, his or her delegation would automatically be placed last on the list of speakers, unless it had made arrangements to change places with another delegation.

6. She suggested that speakers should be limited to 10 minutes for the general debate and 5 minutes for statements under individual agenda items, with some flexibility for the representatives of interest groups. She urged speakers to confine themselves to the salient points of their statements and to provide copies of longer statements for distribution. Similarly, introductions by the Secretariat should be limited to 10 minutes. Representatives of the Secretariat, agencies, funds and programmes were explicitly requested to focus their statements on selected issues of concern to them and, if possible, to provide copies of their statements for distribution. She intended to notify all speakers when their time was running out.

7. She noted that agenda items to be allocated to the Second Committee by the General Assembly were contained in a letter from the President of the General Assembly, which would be issued as document A/C.2/65/1. She also drew attention to the Committee's proposed organization of work as contained in document A/C.2/65/L.1, which was largely based on the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 57/270 B and 58/316 and decision 62/543, as well as the recommendations of the Bureaux of the Committee at the sixty-third and sixty-fourth sessions of the General Assembly.

8. She recalled several important changes in working methods adopted by the Committee. Draft resolutions under the various agenda items would be negotiated and adopted by the Committee throughout the session, rather than at the end. Delegations were therefore requested to do their utmost to facilitate the adoption of draft proposals by the deadlines recommended in document A/C.2/65/L.1. As noted in the guidelines for the submission of draft proposals for processing by the Secretariat which had been circulated, the Secretariat required 48 hours to process and issue draft proposals. Unless such modalities were respected, the Committee ran the risk of returning to its much-criticized past practice.

9. In the spirit of General Assembly resolution 50/227, draft resolutions should continue to be more concise and action-oriented.

10. Since informal negotiations would be held early in the session, facilitators must be appointed and draft proposals submitted on time. She urged those interested in facilitating negotiations or submitting draft proposals to respect the deadlines that were being recommended. If necessary, she would consider scheduling informal consultations prior to the adoption of draft proposals at the recommendation of the Bureau.

11. Time had been set aside in the draft programme of work for side events, in which prominent experts would be invited to discuss issues relating to the Millennium Development Goals, least developed

countries, small island developing States and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Interpretation for the special events would be on an "if available" basis.

12. She recalled that two key elements were required for the successful completion of the Committee's programme of work. One was discipline in honouring the deadlines for submission of draft proposals indicated in the organization of work document (A/C.2/65/L.1). The other was the full utilization of time in between the consideration of items for delegations to prepare draft proposals, establish group positions or conduct informal consultations.

Organization of work

13. **The Chairperson** invited the Committee to consider the draft programme of work annexed to document A/C.2/65/L.1. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, and a keynote speaker, would address the Committee before the opening of the general debate on 4 October.

14. The target date for the conclusion of the Committee's work was 23 November 2009, which was based on the time required for the Committee's reports to be processed and issued as documents for consideration by the General Assembly prior to its recess, and for the Fifth Committee to be seized of the Committee's recommendations.

15. She took it that the Committee wished to approve the draft programme of work annexed to document A/C.2/65/L.1 on the understanding that it might have to be adjusted further as the session progressed.

16. *It was so decided.*

17. **The Chairperson** drew attention to document A/C.2/65/L.1/Add.1, the annex to which provided information on the status of documentation before the Committee as at 13 September 2010.

18. She took it that the Committee wished to approve document A/C.2/65/L.1/Add.1.

19. *It was so decided.*

20. **The Chairperson** referred to the closing remarks made by the Chairperson of the Committee at the end of the previous session, in which he had suggested improving the Committee's work methods, including maximizing use of the time allotted to the Committee by the Organization's conference services and minimizing duplication of statements in the general debate and the debate under individual agenda items. He had also suggested that consideration should be given to instituting a one-time deadline for the submission of all draft proposals, reviewing current submission practices to enhance the efficiency of the negotiation process, and beginning the work of the Bureau as early as June or early July.

21. In the light of those and other suggestions from her predecessors, she had decided to hold a meeting on the working methods of the Second Committee on 4 October at 10 a.m. The general debate would therefore begin on 4 October at 3 p.m.

22. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee) said that, as in previous years, the Committee would have at its disposal "QuickPlace", a secure online shared workspace. Instructions on the use of the tool and a registration form had been circulated.

The meeting rose at 3.40 p.m.